Listing of the Claims:

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1 (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method for automatically determining awareness settings among people in a distributed working environment recited in claim ~~1~~ 11, wherein the step of automatically adjusting a distance is performed by a multi-agent system that automatically and selectively provides perceived information to others based on perceived events or status associated with others.

3. (Original) The method for automatically determining awareness settings among people in a distributed working environment recited in claim 2, wherein the elastic spring energy model governs reaction of an information system in real time when events or status changes.

4. (Original) The method for automatically determining awareness settings among people in a distributed working environment recited in claim 2, wherein each agent acts on its user's behalf to adjust an awareness level among different users.

5. (Currently Amended) The method for automatically determining awareness settings among people in a distributed working environment recited in claim ~~1~~ 11, further comprising the step of dividing communications between different users into different channels and specifying a clearness level for each channel.

6. (Currently amended) The method for automatically determining awareness settings among people in a distributed working environment recited in claim ~~1~~ 11, wherein the elastic spring energy model is a

dynamic model so that the step of automatically adjusting a distance takes into consideration events which happen at each user's site.

7. (Currently amended) A [The] method for automatically determining awareness settings among people in a distributed working environment [recited in claim 1] comprising the steps of:

receiving real-time data produced by an event; and

automatically adjusting a distance according to how clear a receiver can receive a corresponding signal from another party desired by individual users and a need of a collaborative project to have some shared information about individual user activities using an elastic spring energy model, wherein the elastic spring energy model takes into consideration a user's frustration level if information about the user is revealed to another on the occurrence of a particular event.

8. (Currently amended) The method for automatically determining awareness settings among people in a distributed working environment recited in claim ~~1~~ 11, wherein the elastic spring energy model determines potential energy vectors which encode a user's preference on distances.

9. (Currently amended) A [The] method for automatically determining awareness settings among people in a distributed working environment [recite in claim 1] comprising the steps of:

receiving real-time data produced by an event; and

automatically adjusting a distance according to how clear a receiver can receive a corresponding signal from another party desired by individual users and a need of a collaborative project to have some shared information about individual user activities using an elastic spring energy model, wherein the elastic spring energy model determines potential energy vectors which encode awareness requirements for a collaborative task.

10. (Currently amended) A [The] method for automatically determining awareness settings among people in a distributed working environment [recited in claim 1] comprising the steps of:

receiving real-time data produced by an event; and

automatically adjusting a distance according to how clear a receiver can receive a corresponding signal from another party desired by individual users and a need of a collaborative project to have some shared information about individual user activities using an elastic spring energy model, wherein the elastic spring energy model determines potential energy vectors which encode a user's preference on distances and awareness requirements for a collaborative task.

11. (Currently amended) A [The] method for automatically determining awareness settings among people in a distributed working environment [recited in claim 1] comprising the steps of:

receiving real-time data produced by an event; and

automatically adjusting a distance according to how clear a receiver can receive a corresponding signal from another party desired by individual users and a need of a collaborative project to have some shared information about individual user activities using an elastic spring energy model, wherein a matrix and vector look up model is used to determine the distances among distributed users, the values of the matrix and the vector encoding ~~the~~ preferences of ~~the~~ a user and ~~the~~ preference requirements of ~~the other~~ another user.

12. (Currently Amended) The method for automatically determining awareness settings among people in a distributed working environment recited in claim 11, wherein the matrix and vector additionally encode ~~the~~ preferences of ~~the~~ a task and ~~the~~ preferences of ~~the~~ an organization.